

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant(s): Silva, Gloria  
Serial No.: 10/551,635  
Filed: September 30, 2005  
For: Natural flower preserving process

Group Art Unit: 1616  
Examiner: Alton Nathaniel Pryor

**Submitted via EFS**  
Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**April 29, 2010**

**CERTIFICATE OF FILING ELECTRONICALLY VIA EFS  
37 C.F.R. 1.8**

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT I HAVE A REASONABLE BASIS FOR BELIEF THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING SUBMITTED TO THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE VIA EFS (ELECTRONICALLY) ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW, AND IS ADDRESSED TO:

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
PO BOX 1450  
ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450

/ Brian C. McCormack, Reg. No. 36,601/  
Brian C. McCormack, Reg. No. 36, 601  
DATE OF SUBMISSION: APRIL 29, 2010  
ELECTRONIC FILING (EFS)

**DECLARATION OF GLORIA SILVA**

1. My name is Gloria Silva, and I am over the age of twenty-one (21) years, of sound mind, and fully competent to testify to the following facts.
2. I have a bachelor's of science degree in Chemistry, conferred in 1970 from Universidad Nacional de Colombia, which is a highly regarded school in Bogotá, Colombia.
3. Since 1993, I have worked for Guiraldas S.A. ("Guiraldas"), which is a leading company in the art of preserving flowers and the producer and exporter of fine preserved flowers and flower arrangements. I currently hold the position of General Manager of Guiraldas and I am the first-named inventor of the U.S. Pat. App. No. 10/551,635 ("the present Application").

4. As claimed by the present Application, the method for preserving flowers comprises first, second, and third dehydrating steps.
5. I have found that using three dehydrating steps, as opposed to one or two, allows for a substantial removal of the soluble natural substances and substantial removal of the natural flower pigments, allowing for a dramatically better preservation process.
6. In addition, I have found that because the soluble natural substances are substantially removed, the flowers obtained using three dehydration steps last longer.
7. The effect of using the three claimed dehydrating steps of different solutions unexpectedly exceeds the cumulative linear effect that might be expected by repeating a dehydrating step three times.
8. Experiments were conducted to demonstrate the difference between the results obtained with the method of the present Application and the results obtained using the methods taught by U.S. Pat. No. 5,252,537 to DeWinter-Scaillieur ("DeWinter-Scaillieur").
9. Experimental procedures, surprising results, and supporting data for the results obtained using the present Application and the results obtained using the methods taught by DeWinter-Scaillieur are discussed in Annexes A and B.
10. I hereby declare that all statements made herein are of my own knowledge and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under 18 U.S.C. § 1001 and that such false statements may jeopardize the validity of any decision made thereon.

By: Gloria Silva  
Gloria Silva

Date: April 29th, 2010